

## Everyone Loves Andrew

Series: Dare2Share

John 1:40-42

June 10, 2018

It's so good to be here with you today. Myra and I have just come back from Annual Conference, and we will continue to serve as your clergy couple for starting our 8<sup>th</sup> year. Wow, as the phrase says, "Time flies when you are having fun."

During the month of June, we are doing a message series called Dare2Share. We are talking about being willing to share our faith in Christ with others. We have a big task, because I believe Christ is coming soon, and Satan is trying to win to his side as many as he can. And so he continues to make sin less offensive, heaven less appealing, hell less horrific, and the Gospel less urgent.

Last week, we talked about it would be like if Jesus lived in your house. We said that

- He would pray for His neighbors;
- He would have a sense of urgency in reaching His neighbors;
- He would assure His neighbors His door would always be open to them
- He would not just share about His Father, He would show it;
- And He would be authentic with His neighbors.

Today, we are going to look at an example of ways we can Dare2Share. I invite you to turn to page 5 in your bulletin.

While visiting a neighbor, five-year-old Andrew pulled out his kindergarten class picture and immediately began describing each classmate. "This is Robert; he hits everyone. This is Stephen. He never listens to the teacher. This is Mark. He chases us and is very noisy." Pointing to his own picture, Andrew commented, "And this is me. I'm just sitting here minding my own business."<sup>1</sup>

The kindergarten Andrew and the Andrew of our Scripture lesson are not that much different. Let's look at John 1:40-42:

*Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means "Christ"). Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter").<sup>2</sup>*

We do not possess a great deal of information about Andrew, but even the little that we know perfectly paints his character. He is one of the most attractive men in the apostolic band. He has two outstanding characteristics.

First, Andrew was characteristically the man who was prepared to take the second place. Again, and again, he is identified as Simon Peter's brother. It is clear that he lived under the shadow of Peter. People might not know who Andrew was, but everyone knew Peter; and when men spoke of Andrew they described him as Peter's brother.

Andrew was not one of the inner circle of the disciples. When Jesus healed Jairus' daughter, when He went up to the Mount of Transfiguration, when He underwent

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<sup>1</sup> Kathy Plate, Orlando, Florida. Christian Reader, "Kids of the Kingdom."

<sup>2</sup> John 1:40-42 (NLT2)

His agony in Gethsemane, it was Peter, James and John whom He took with Him. It would have been so easy for Andrew to resent this. Was he not one of the first two disciples who ever followed Jesus? Did Peter not owe his meeting with Jesus to him? Might he not reasonably have expected a foremost place in the apostolic band? But all that never even occurred to Andrew. He was quite content to stand back and let his brother have the limelight; he was quite content to play a humble part in the company of the Twelve. To Andrew, matters of precedence and place and honor mattered nothing at all. All that mattered was to be with Jesus and to serve him as well as he could. Andrew is the patron saint of all who humbly and loyally and ungrudgingly take the second place.

The other outstanding feature of Andrew was that he characteristically was the man who was always introducing others to Jesus. There are only three times in the gospel story when Andrew is brought into the center of the stage.

#### Andrew brings Peter who becomes the leader of the church- John 1:40-42 (today's passage)

1. Andrew, disciple of John the Baptist, meets Jesus: vs. 40
2. Shares with his brother: vs. 41
3. Brings him to Jesus: vs. 42. Andrew accepted John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and immediately went to tell his brother, Simon, about him. There was no question in Andrew's mind that Jesus was the Messiah.

#### Andrew brings the crowd who are fed: John 6:1-14

1. Jesus teaches the Jewish people: vs. 1-3
2. Jesus inquires how to feed the people: vs. 4-7
3. Andrew brings a boy with 5 loaves and 2 fish: vs. 8-9
4. Jesus feeds 5,000 men: vs. 10-14

#### Andrew brings Gentiles who learn about servanthood: John 12:20-26

1. Philip is approached by some Greeks who wanted to see Jesus: vs. 20-21
2. Philip takes them to Andrew, and together they take the Greeks to Jesus: vs. 22
3. Jesus teaches on servanthood: vs. 23-26

It was Andrew's great joy to bring others to Jesus. He stands out as the man whose one desire was to share the glory. He is the man with the missionary heart. Having himself found the friendship of Jesus, he spent all his life in introducing others to that friendship. Andrew is our great example in that he could not keep Jesus to himself.

#### Introduce Operation Andrew Inserts

##### Keys

1. **Look Around:** Your mission field is right where you like, work, or go to school. List names of individuals you know who need Jesus; pray for them regularly.
2. **Look up:** God changes people through prayer. Pray each day for those on your list; God will give you opportunities to share His love.
3. **Look out:** for ways to cultivate friendships; earn their confidence. An invitation to dinner or a sporting event can open the way to talk about Christ.

4. **Look forward:** Begin to talk with each person on your list about attending worship or Sunday School. Choose a specific date, pray and invite them. Offer to bring them with you.
5. **Look After:** Look after those who respond to Christ or show any interest in the Gospel. They need your encouragement. Continue to love and pray for those who do not respond. Remember to encourage all of those on your list to attend worship with you.

Everyone loves Andrew. You can be someone's Andrew who makes an eternal difference.

When a missionary read from the Bible to people in a remote village in South America, they were hearing about Jesus for the first time. After the man finished reading, a villager asked, "Do you know the Man in the Book?" The missionary assured him that he did.

Later, the missionary recounted the story to a friend. He said, "Thank God, I did know the Man in the Book. I knew Him as my Lord and Savior. And I was able to introduce Him to these people who had never experienced His love and forgiveness."

The desire of a believer for those who don't know Christ as their Savior is expressed in this song written by Mildred L. Dillon:

*I wish you knew my Jesus and loved Him as I do,  
For if you knew my Jesus, then you would love Him too.  
He gave His life at Calvary, the sacrifice for you;  
If you'll receive my Jesus, then you will love Him too.*<sup>3</sup>

Every day we rub shoulders with people who need to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. Let's ask God to fill us with the longing, "I wish you knew my Jesus." Then we will become instruments in God's hand to introduce Christ to those who do not know Him.

If your Christianity is worth having, it's worth sharing.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> © 1942 William S. Dillon

<sup>4</sup> Our Daily Bread, August 7, 1999